THE COURT FEES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Court Fees Regulation (I of 1062) at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Permission was granted accordingly.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg permission to introduce at the next ordinary meeting of the Council a Bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Code so as to empower Head Constables to conduct prosecutions and in view to regulate cognizance of forest offences.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Permission was granted accordingly.

FOREST REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Forest Regulation (II of 1068 as amended by Regulation IV of 1071) at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Permission was granted accordingly.

VAKILS' REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg leave to introduce at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, a Bill to amend the Vakils' Regulation (III of 1075).

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Permission was granted accordingly.

BILL TO AMEND THE TOWNS CONSERVANCY AND IMPROVEMENT REGULATION (III of 1076).

Mr. Ananda Row.—On behalf of Mr. Vieyra, who is absent to-day, I beg to apply for permission to introduce at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, a Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, (III of 1076).

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE TRAVANCORE TREASURE TROVE BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—Sir, In accordance with the permission granted to me at the last meeting, I beg to bring up, for the consideration of the Council to-day, a Bill to make provision for the protection of Treasure Trove in Travancore. The Bill together with the statement of objects and reasons has already been published and circulated. The concluding sentence of the statement of objects and reasons gives the clue to the immediate motive that has inspired the Bill. The importance of securing for the Government Museum articles of historical or archæological value is admitted on all hands. There have occurred in the past instances in which large finds of treasure have been left unreported to Government or came to the knowledge of Government too late to be of any practical use to them. To mention only one of them, and a recent one too, large quantities of ancient coins of varying descriptions in gold, silver and copper, were washed ashore at Colachel during the sea erosion that occurred in July and August last. Attempts were made to collect as large a number of them as possible on account of their numismatic interest, but owing to the absence of a law, the efforts made were but partially successful. The uncertainty that exists at present regarding the rights of private individuals with respect to any finds is an

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evil which calls for remedy. The Bill as drafted, while securing to the people the rights which they enjoy at present, enables Government to buy up such of the treasure as may be deemed necessary for their purpose. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed and that it be taken up for consideration at once.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Mr. Kuruvila.—Sir, Many of the suggestions I have to make about this Bill are such as would be properly and conveniently dealt with in the Select Committee stage; and I therefore do not propose to deal with them now. But in my humble opinion, there are one or two points which are so vitally connected with the principle of the Bill that I find it my duty to refer to them before the principle of the Bill is affirmed.

The provisions of the Penal Code for theft, misappropriation &c., are now available to the public for protection when their movable properties are interfered with by those who have no right to them, and the provisions of the Bill are evidently superfluous for the protection of property, the ownership of which is known or easily provable. In fact, the very meaning of the word "treasure-trove" presumes that ownership of the find is unknown. But the Bill unfortunately confuses treasures whose ownership is practically indisputable with treasure-troves exhumed as the result of laborious and expensive exploration by archæologists and thereby molests true owners with the necessity of civil suits and other harassing proceedings. To a modern economist, the burying of valuable coin or bullion is no doubt repugnant; but it is well acknowledged that, in the unsettled state of the country in bygone generations, local ideas of reserve funds and of auspicious functions at the starting of large buildings, sanctioned and encouraged the burying of treasures in cellars and under foundations in their buildings or at their dwelling sites. It would be against the respect due to the [illegible] of property not to exclude such common finds from the definition of "treasure" in the Treasure-Trove Bill. Indeed the statement of objects and reasons and the appearance of Sections 9, 10, 11, 15 &c., show that appropriation of such treasures is not the object of the proposed measure and that the preservation of archæological finds is the main incentive. Believing therefore that the Mover has no intention to interfere with the rights of owners and of descendants and heirs of those who had deposited their reserve funds at their dwelling places, I beg to submit that the scope of the Bill should be restricted so as to render it innocuous to true owners, by modifying the definition of the word "treasure" and making it apply only to any valuable article of archæological interest hidden more than twenty feet below the soil and unearthed by any person other than the rightful owner of the place in which the articles were deposited.

Mr. Udaya Varma Raja.—I perfectly agree with my friend Mr. Kuruvila in holding that there is no necessity for Government interference in cases of discovery of treasures by persons in their own lands. Instead of doing any good to such finders, the Bill will surely give them undesirable trouble. With this remark, Sir, I beg to affirm the principle of the Bill.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Sankara Menon proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. A Sri Narayanan Thampi, Mr. K. K. Kuruvila, Mr. S. Padmanabha Iyer and the Mover, to report before the next ordinary meeting.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE FACTORIES BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I do not think that any argument is necessary for me to commend this Bill to you. Factories constitute one of the distinguishing features of the commercial and industrial activity of a country. The number of factories in the State has shown a steady increase and at the end of the last year there were 45

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